

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 277217

FOR AMBASSADOR

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 10693 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
DAR ES SALAAM LISBON LUANDA LUSAKA 18 DEC

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 10693

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AO, PO, PINS, CG

SUBJECT:CHIPENDA'S VIEWS

1. AMBASSADOR AND DCM DECEMBER 16 HAD WIDE-RANGING
TWO AND A HALF HOUR DISCUSSION WITH DANIEL CHIPENDA DURING
WHICH FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS EMERGED.

2. CHIPENDA CONFIRMED THAT THE GOP HAD POSTPONED THE
ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE "UNTIL AFTER CHRISTMAS". HE AND
HOLDEN ROBERTO WERE THE LAST TO BE INFORMED. SAVIMBI WAS
TOLD EARLY AND WAS NOW IN ANGOLA WHERE HE WOULD STAY UNTIL
AFTER DECEMBER 25. CHIPENDA SAID HE HAD BEEN INSISTING
ON HIS RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS
AND INDICATED THAT THE GOP WAS, IN HIS VIEW, FAVORING
NETO. HE SHOWED THE AMBASSADOR A TELEGRAM IN PORTUGUESE
WHICH HAD JUST BEEN RECEIVED FROM LISBON SIGNED BY "RIVERO".
IN IT, THE GOP INFORMED CHIPENDA THAT IT RECOGNIZES
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NETO AS THE HEAD OF THE MPLA AND THAT IT WISHES THE

VARIOUS FACTIONS TO UNITE. CHIPENDA COMMENTED THAT THE LEADERS OF THE VARIOUS FACTIONS COULD HAVE FOUND A SOLUTION LONG AGO IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE INTERFERENCE IN THE MPLA'S AFFAIRS BY DIFFERENT GROUPS WITHIN THE GOP. CHIPENDA PUT A BRAVE FACE ON THE TELEGRAM AND INTERPRETED IT AS GOP RECOGNITION THAT HE WAS, IN FACT, A LIBERATION LEADER. IMPRESSION WAS THAT HE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE A REPLY TO HIS MANY TELEGRAMS. CHIPENDA SAID HE WOULD REPLY AND EXPLAIN HIS POSITION. (THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION, CHIPENDA WAS DEFENSIVE AS TO WHO IS THE REAL PRESIDENT OF NLA. HE DID NOT DIRECTLY REFER TO RECENT MUTUAL EXCLUSIONS FROM PARTY ISSUED BY NETO AGAINST HIM AND VICE VERSA. HE DID REHEARSE HIS VIEW THAT HE HAD BEEN ELECTED PRESIDENT BY THE LUSAKA CONGRESS AND HAD ACCEPTED AT BRAZZAVILLE UNDER PRESSURE TO BECOME VICE-PRESIDENT ON UNDERSTANDING NETO WOULD DO CERTAIN THINGS WHICH HE HAS FAILED TO PERFORM. ARGUMENT WAS SOMEWHAT LEGALISTICL

3. CHIPENDA REMARKED THAT HOLDEN AND HE HAD NEED OF MOBUTU'S HELP NOW AND NOTED MMSRNFULLY THAT LATTER WAS TOURING CHINA. WHEN AMBASSADOR RAISED COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED BY HOLDEN AND SAVIMBI DURING NOVEMBER 24 CLEBRATIONS IN KINSHASA, CHIPENDA SAID THAT HE STILL THOUGHT THAT IT WAS SOLID. HOWEVER, HE REMARKED SAVIMBI HAD NOT YET COME BACK TO KINSHASA, AS EXPECTED, AND WONDERED ABOUT SAVIMBI-NETO DISCUSSIONS.

4. CONCERNING ANGOLAN WHITES, CHIPENDA SAID THEY MUST ALSO BE REPRESENTED IN A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. HE QUOTED MOBUTU TO THE EFFECT THAT IT WAS CHEAPER TO KEEP THE WHITES IN ANGOLA RATHER THAN TO BRING THEM BACK LATER.

5. THE AMBASSADOR RAISED CABINDA AND NOTED CHIPENDA HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF SAYING DIFFERENT THINGS AT DIFFERENT TIMES. CHIPENDA SAID TCHIOUFOU HAD MIS-QUOTED HIM. HE HAD ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT CABINDA WAS A PART OF ANGOLA AND THAT THE QUESTION SHOULD BE DECIDED BY THE ANGOLANS THEMSELVES AFTER INDEPENDENCE. CHIPENDA COMPLAINED MILDLY THAT, IN SPITE OF HIS ATTEMPTS, HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO MEET WITH RANQUE FRANQUE OF F A .# (ITS HAD TO CREDIT THIS).
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6. YN SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, HE SAID THEY WOULD BECOME INDEPENDENT BUT "WOULD GO THE WAY OF ZANZIBAR". AFTER INDEPENDENCE IT WAS CONCEIVABLE THEY WOULD UNITE WITH &-?9,, BUT IT WAS FAR MORE LIKELY THEY WOULD CAST THEIR LOT WITH ANGOLA BECAUSE OF LANGUAGE AND FAMILY LINKS.

7. CHIPENDA SAID THAT HE WOULD NOW PROCEED TO LUSAKA TO CONSULT

PRESIDENT KAUNDA, AFTER WHICH HE WOULD VISIT HIS FORCES IN ANGOLA.

8. CHIPENDA ALSO REFERRED TO HIS RECENT TRIP TO UGANDA WHERE HE HAD RECEIVED AMIN'S ENDORSEMENT (KINSHASA 10660) FOR WHATEVER THAT IS WORTH.

9. COMMENT: CHIPENDA APPEARED SOMEWHAT ILL AT EASE AND DEFENSIVE. ALTHOUGH REPORTED TO BE EFFECTIVE ORATOR, HE IS PRIVATELY SOFT SPOKEN AND DOES NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION HE RELISHES DISPUTE. HE CLEARLY APPEARS TO BE UNDER THE SWAY OF MOBUTU AND TO HAVE THROWN IN HIS LOT WITH HOLDEN ROBERTO AND PERHAPS SAVIMBI. HE THINKS HE IS ENTITLED TO BE MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN EVENTUAL ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT. END COMMENT.

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